

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
MCT-01 /080 W  
-----098118 282242Z /66

P R 281810Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2420  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
COMSIXTHFLT  
DIA  
AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL GENOA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMCONSUL PALERMO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
SHAPEUSNR  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY  
USDOCOSOUTH  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AFOSI DIST 65 ROME IT/IVOA  
HQ AFOSI WASHDC/IVOAD

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E.O. 11652:NA  
TAGS: PINT,IT  
SUBJECT: THE MORO KIDNAPPING; POLITICAL DIFFERNCES EMERGE

1.AS THE MAY FIRST HOLIDAY WEEKEND APPROCHES, A JUMPY  
ATMOSPHERE OF NERVOUS EXECTATION HAS SET IN. FOUR DAYS  
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HAVE PASSED SINCE THE RED BRIGADES (RB) ISSUED THEIR LAST  
COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING MORO'S EXECUTION SHOULD 13 PRISONERS  
NOT BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY. WHEN WOULD THE TERRORISTS  
ISSUE A NINTH MESSAGE? IN SUBSEQUENT DAYS, NERVES HAD  
BEEN STRAINED FURTHER BY THE FALSE HOPES ENGENDERED BY A  
TELEPHONE TIP THATMORO HAD BEEN RELEASED ALIVE ON A  
HIGHWAY SOUTH OF ROME. IN ADDITION, THE REF BRIGADES

CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ABILITY TO STRIKE WITH APPARENT IMPUNITY BY THE SHOOTING IN THE LEGS OF A DC REGIONAL PARTY LEADER IN ROME AND A FIAT OFFICIAL IN TURIN ON TWO SUCCESSIVE MORNINGS.

3. IN THIS TENSELY EXPECTANT MOOD, POLITICAL CONTROVERSY AGAIN EMERGED ON THE ISSUE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RED BRIGADES. BESIDES LINGERING CRITICISM OF THE WISDOM OF UNSYG WALDHEIM'S DIRECT APPEAL TO THE RB, THE AMBIGUOUSLY FLEXIBLE POSITION TAKEN BY SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER CRAXI HAS STIRRED UP THE POLITICAL WATERS. THILE RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE STATE MIGHT ENGAGE IN A PRISONER EXCHANGE, CRAXI ARGUED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NONETHELESS EXPLORE LEGAL WAYS TO ENGAGE IN A UNILATERAL "HUMANITARIAN GESTURE" WHICH MIGHT INDUCE THE RB TO SPARE MORO'S LIFE. ALTHOUGH CRAXI DID NOT SPELL OUT WHAT HE HAD IN MIND, A PSI DEPUTY SUGGESTED THAT THE "AUTONOMOUS GESTURE" MIGHT BE THE AMNESTY OF THREE SICK JAILED TERRORISTS ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS OR THE INVESTIGATION AND OVERHAUL OF TOP-SECURITY PRISONS WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR TO PREVENT EXTREMIST PRISONERS FROM ESCAPING OR CONTINUING TO CONSORT WITH ONE ANOTHER IN DETENTION. (ON APRIL 27, HOWEVER, CRAXI DENIED THAT HE HAD ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL IN MIND). ON APRIL 26, DC SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI CALLED ON CRAXI, REPORTEDLY TO SEEK AN ELABORATION: LATER THE DC ANNOUNCED THAT IS POSITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REMAINED UNCHANGED.

3. CRAXI'S PROPOSAL RAISED AN IMMEDIATE POLITICAL STORM, INCLUDING CRITICISM FROM SOME ELEMENTS WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY. THE STRONGEST REACTION CAME FROM THE COMMUNISTS AND REPUBLICANS WHO HAVE ADOPTED AN UNCOMPROMISING POLICY AGAINST ANY CONCESSIONS TO THE RED BRIGADES. IN AN APRIL 28 EDITORIAL REPORTEDLY CLEARED BY TOP PARTY LEADERS, L'UNITA SAID THAT "A FEW CONCESSIONS" WOULD NOT APPEASE THE RB: TO THINK SO WAS "A SIGN OF TRULY DISCONCERTING INGENUITY". IN REFLECTING CRAXI'S SUGGESTED COURSE, DC LEADERS SUCH AS DEPUTY PARTY SECRETARY GALLONI CALLED FOR "UNITY WITHOUT RESERVATIONS" IN DEALING WITH THE RB. COMMENT: CRAXI'S MOTIVATIONS IN SUGGESTING A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH ARE UNCLEAR. THEY MAY BE BASED ON THE BELIEF THAT AN INDEPENDENT AND MORE "HUMANITARIAN" PSI POSITION COULD BE POLITICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE PSI LATER ON, SHOULD MORO EITHER BE SLAIN OR BE RELEASED. END COMMENT.

4. IN RECENT DAYS THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTS OF DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE DC ON THE HANDLING OF THE MORO CASE.

THESE HAVE CENTERED ON FANFARI WHO WAS SAID TO FAVOR A

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
MCT-01 /080 W

-----020841 042115Z /62

P R 281810Z APR 78 ZDS  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2421  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
COMSIXTHFLT  
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CORRECTED COPY -- FORMAT LINE 13 ADDED

MORE FLEXBLE APPROACH AND TO HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF  
ZACCAGNINI FOR NOT CONVENING A MEETING OF THE DIRECTORATE.  
FANFANI AND ZACCAGNINI MET ON APRIL 27, SCOTCHING AT  
EAST OFFICIALLY RUMORS OF DISSENT BY THE ISSUANCE OF A  
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STATEMENT AFFIRMING THAT ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE DIRECTORATE ("CONSULTED SEPARATELY BY THE SECRETARY") APPROVED THE PARTY' SPOSITION.

5. TWO CONSERVATIVE PAPERS TEMPO AND IL GIORNALE) PUBLISHED REPORTS ON APRIL 28 OF THE "CONFIDENCES" ALLEGEDLY OBTAINED IN A MANNER NOT STED, FROM CHRISTOFORO PIANCONE THE HOSPITALIZED RB TERRORIST IN TURIN WHO WAS WOUNDED IN THE SHOOTING OF A PRISON GUARD ON QPIL 11. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, PIANCONE (ONE OF THE THIRTEEN WHOSE FREE-DOM WAS DEMANDED BY THE RB) DID NOT NAME NAMES. HE REPORTEDLY TALKED EXTENSIVELY, HOWEVER, ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE RB,WHO HE NUMBERED AT 1,500 DIVIDED IN FOUR "TERRITORIAL COLUMNS" LOCATED IN ROME, MILAN, GENOA AND TURIN, PIANCONE ALLEGES THAT A MASSIVE TERRORIST OPERATION OF KILLINGS HAD BEENPLANNED TO COINCIDE WITH THE MORO KIDNAPPING,BUT WAS TURNED OFF FOR SOMEUNSTAED OR UNKNOWN REASON. PIANCONE ALSO STTES THAT A BR RECRUIT RECEIVES A YEAR' TRAINING, ALMOST ALWAYS OUTSIDE OF ITALY, BUT THAT THE MOVEMENT RNALLY THROUGH " EXPRORIATIONS". PIANCONE'S JUDGEMNT OF BERLINGUER WAS VERY NEGATIVE (PART OF THE ESTABLISHMENT). HE ALLEGED WIDE SUPPPORT WITHIN THE PCI (FOR THE BR) AND STATED THAT, IN THE EVENT OF "VIOLENT REPRESSION" BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE PCI WOULD "GUARANTEE THE PGHSICAL SURVIVAL" OF THE BR. COMMENT: SINCE RONE IS UNNDER POLICE GUARD, REPORTERS

HAVE NOT HAD ACCESS TO HIM. RELIABLE SOURCES SUGGEST THAT THE JOURNALIST WHO WROTE THE AVOVE STORY OBTAINED THE MATERIAL THROUGH

FRIENDS OR RELATIVES OF MEMBERS OF STAFF OF THE HOSPITAL WHERE PIANCOME IS HELD.GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PINT, IT, (MORO, ALDO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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